



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 03 MARCH 2010

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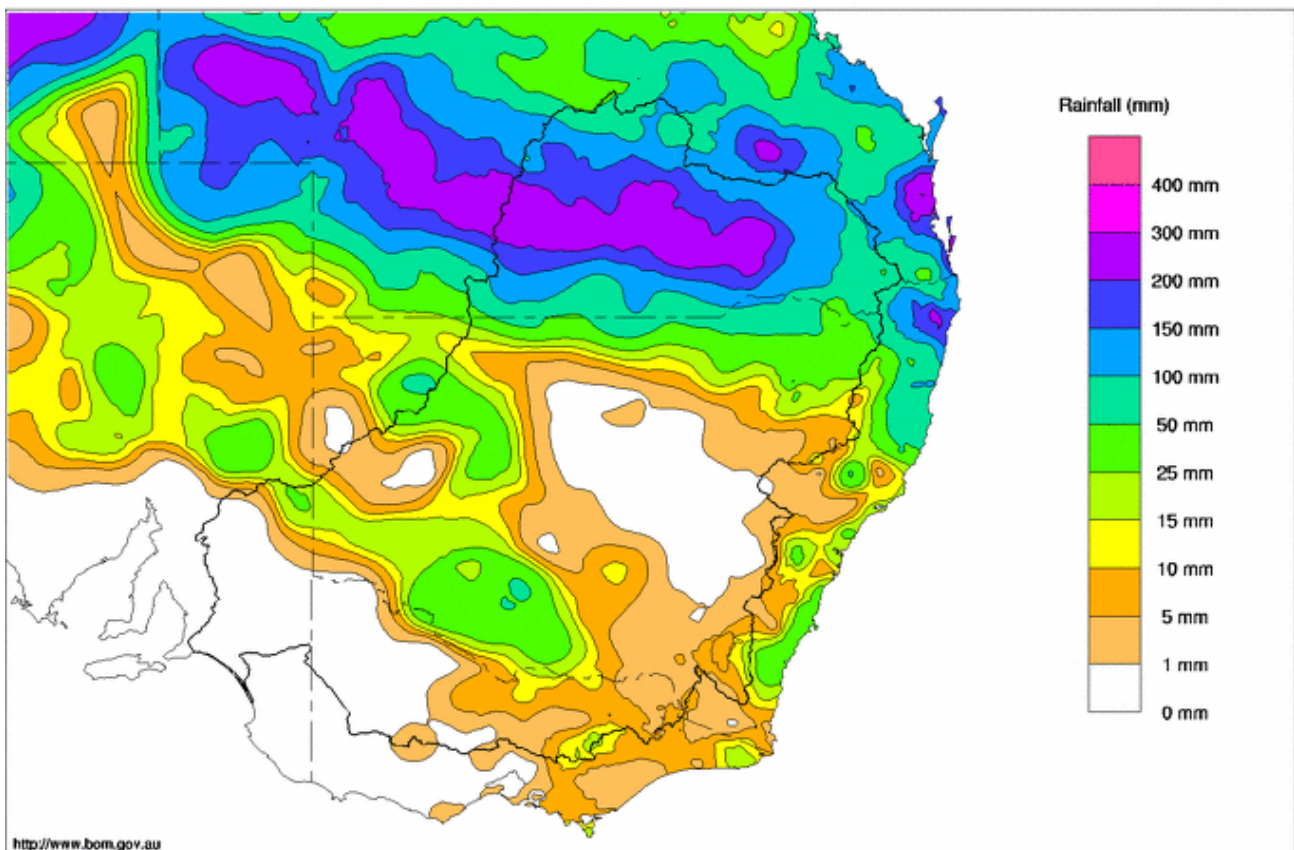
Rainfall and Inflows

For the week ending 3 March there were heavy falls of rain in the northern Murray–Darling Basin, particularly in southern Queensland. For instance, around 240 mm was recorded this week at Charleville. Rainfall in NSW and Victoria was less, north-east NSW received up to 50 mm and the Victorian Alps recorded less than 10 mm. Further widespread rain is forecast for the coming week.

Streamflows in the upper Murray and Mitta Mitta regions have slowly receded over the week. For instance, at Biggara on the upper Murray, flows have decreased from about 470 to 270 ML/day and at Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River flows have dropped from 480 to 280 ML/day.

On the Darling River, the flow at Bourke has increased from around 3,000 to 4,800 ML/day mainly due to local inflows. This week’s rain in southern Queensland will significantly contribute to inflows to Menindee Lakes in the future, however at this stage it is too early to estimate the volume. Further information on Menindee Lakes management can be found at <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-sharing/menindee-lakes/default.aspx>

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 3rd March 2010
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Issued: 03/03/2010

Map 1



February 2010 Summary

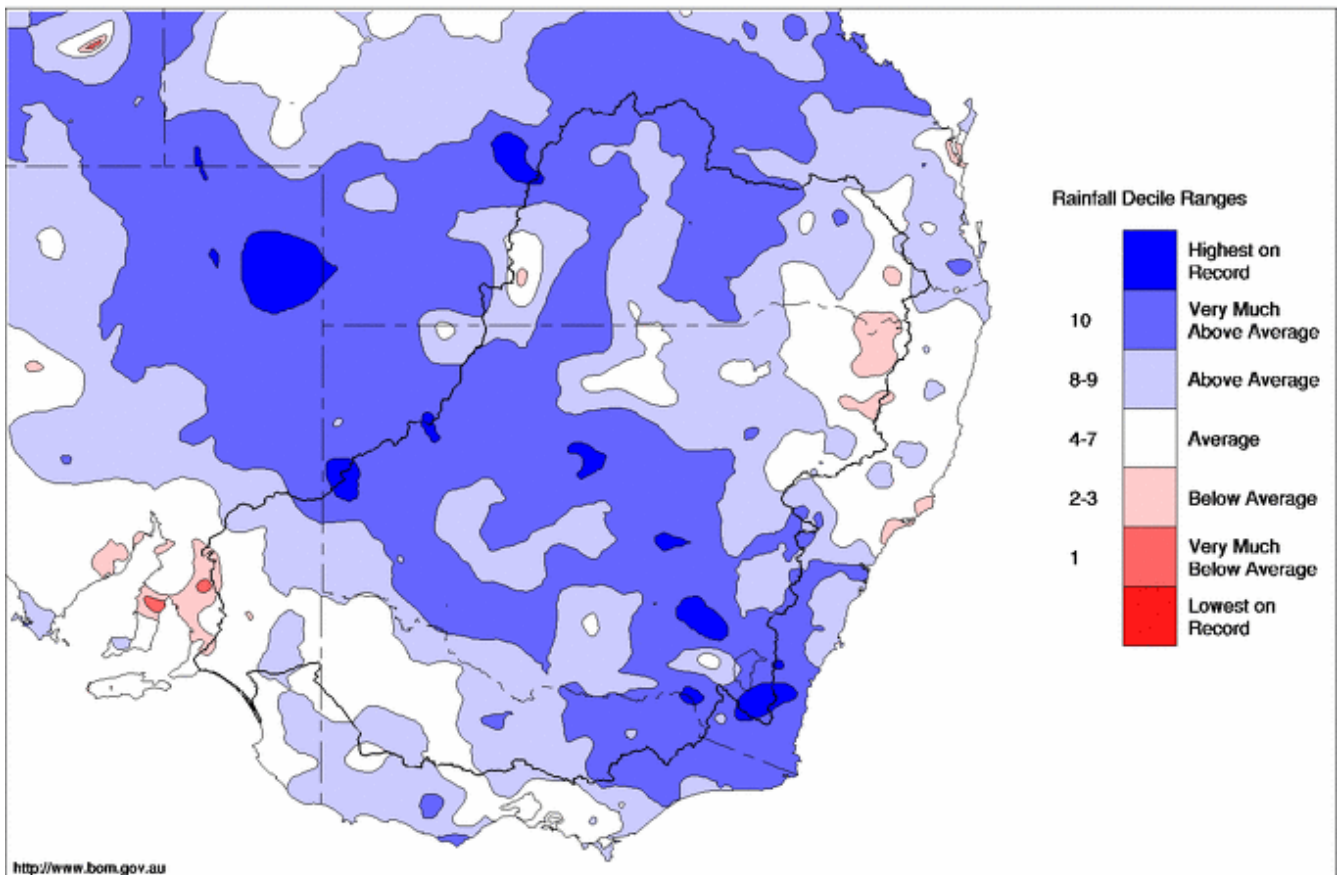
February rainfall ranged from above to very much above average for the Murray–Darling Basin (see Map 2). February 2010 was a wet month through most of the eastern two-thirds of Australia, with all three states of the mainland southeast receiving more than double their normal February rainfall.

In NSW, statewide average rainfall for February was 106.5 mm which is above the historical average of 50.6 mm and is the highest rainfall for February since 1976. The above average rainfall was due to two significant rainfall events in the first half of February. Good falls were also recorded in north-east Victoria, where some areas including Mt Buller, Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River and Redisdale on the Campaspe River recorded thier highest ever February rainfall.

Despite the welcome rain, Murray system inflows (excluding the Darling River) for February were around 80 GL (subject to confirmation) which is much higher than last year (46 GL) but still well below the long-term February average of 170 GL, reinforcing the long term impacts of extended dry periods.

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles February 2010

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Map 2

MDBA active storage at the end of February was about 1,920 GL or 21% capacity (Figure 1). This is higher than last year at 1,170 GL but well below the long term February average of 5,300 GL. MDBA active storage has been below average since early 2002.

Elsewhere in the Basin storage levels remain low. The total volume of water in Basin storages managed by MDBA or by State Governments is at 5,728 GL or 25% capacity.

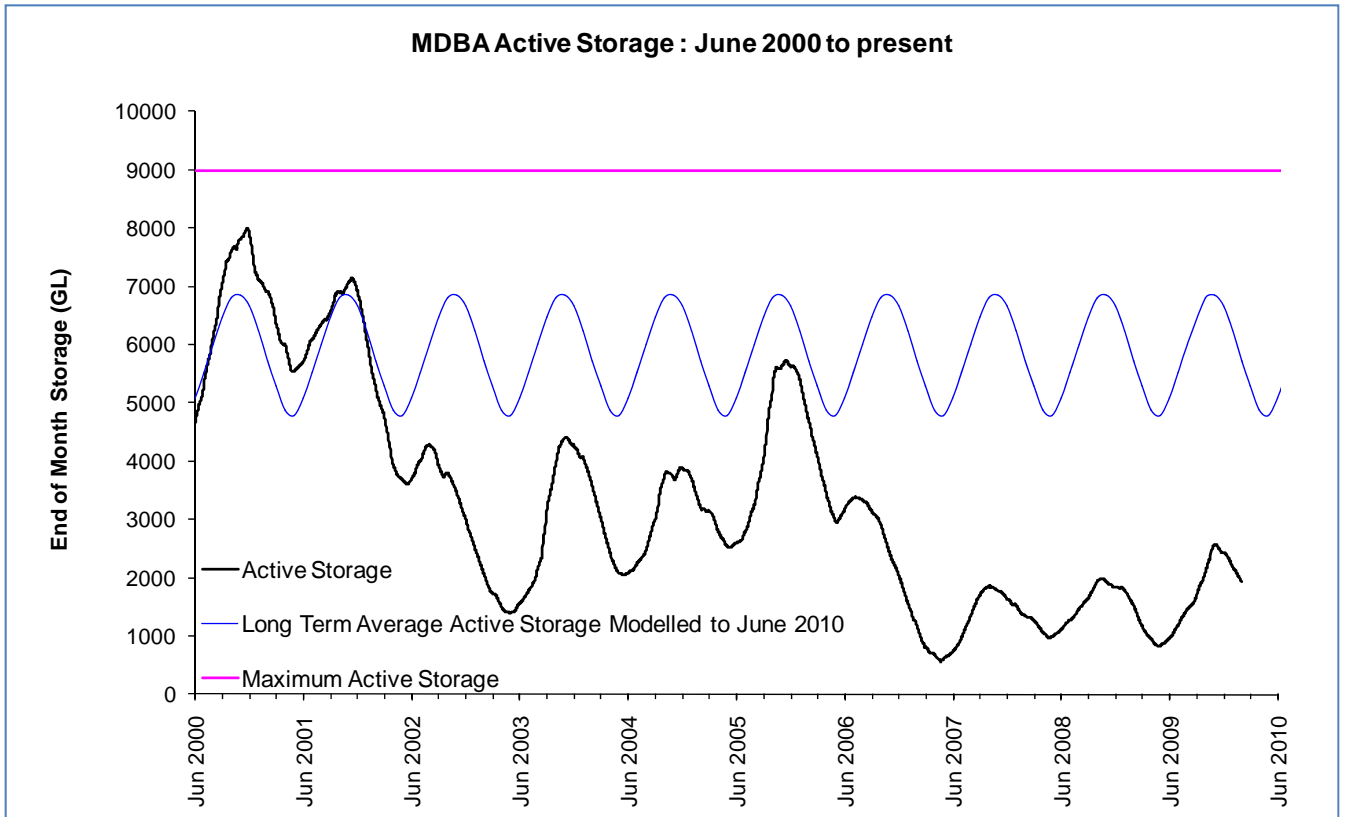


Figure 1 MDBA active storage, June 2000 to February 2010

River Operations

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir decreased by 3 GL to 1,191 GL (30% capacity) and the release, which is targeting 600 ML/day at Tallandoon has risen to 560 ML/day. For this irrigation season, further transfers from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir will not be required due to continued inflows from the Darling River. Hume Reservoir total storage decreased by 16 GL to 524 GL (17%) and releases have been targeting about 7,800 ML/day at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume and the Kiewa River).

The pool level at Lake Mulwala is currently at 124.76 m AHD (14 cm below FSL) and, depending on rainfall, may reduce during the week. Releases from Yarrawonga Weir have been decreased to 5,500 ML/day. The current low release rates at Yarrawonga Weir are similar to those of autumn 2007 and 2008. This is in response to the high inflows from the Darling River, which is supplying the bulk of South Australia's water requirement.

Boat operators, stock owners, river pumpers and other river users are advised to take these low river levels from Doctors Point to Wentworth Weir into account and make any necessary adjustments to their activities.

The target release from Stevens Weir on the Edward River is being reduced to 500 ML/day, in line with the lower flows down the River Murray.

Further downstream on the Murray, Torrumbarry and Euston Weirs are both at Full Supply Level. Flows past Euston Weir have reduced from around 6,200 to 5,200 ML/day and will continue to decline over the coming weeks as the lower releases from upstream arrive.



Total storage in Menindee Lakes (which remain under NSW control) fell by 16 GL to 598 GL (35% capacity). The release from Menindee Lakes at Weir 32 is now around 9,000 ML/day and is planned to be gradually reduced over the coming week. Flows at Burtundy, on the lower Darling River, are currently peaking at around at 12,300 ML/day and by this weekend will begin to fall.

At Wentworth Weir, immediately downstream of the confluence of the Darling and Murray Rivers, the release is currently about 15,000 ML/day and is expected to fall to around 13,000 ML/day by mid-next week. In response to the increased flows, the pool levels at both Wentworth Weir (Lock 10) and Lock 9 are slightly above Full Supply Level.

Total storage in Lake Victoria continues to climb in response to high inflows from the Darling River. Over the week, Lake Victoria saw an increase of 53 GL to 432 GL (64%). The flow to South Australia averaged around 8,300 ML/day and the flow past Lock 1 is currently around 4,700 ML/day.

Lake Alexandrina's water level remains steady at -0.88 m AHD. The water level in Goolwa Channel (which is separated from Lake Alexandrina by an earth embankment) is now at 0.01 m AHD, down from 0.06 m AHD last week. Lake Albert's water level has also fallen from -0.74 to -0.77 m AHD. Pumping from Lake Alexandrina to Lake Albert continues, to reduce the risk of acidification.

Algal Blooms

The Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee (RACC) has recently updated its alerts for blue-green algae. Red alerts are still active from Hume Dam to Barham as well as for sites on the Edward River such as Deniliquin, Gulpa Creek and at Old Morago.

Given the status of the blooms, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority reconvened the Blue-Green Algal Advisory Panel on the 2 March 2010. The panel concluded that the response to the latest algal update was being well coordinated and managed by the routine state processes. The panel also agreed that the Authority would undertake a study comparing this bloom with last year's to identify any learnings.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

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Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 03 Mar 2010

Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage	MDBA Active Storage	Change in Total Storage for the week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	429.86	1 191	30%	80	1 111	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.58	524	17%	30	494	-16
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.85	432	64%	100	332	+53
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		598	35%	(-) #	0	-16
Total		9 352		2 745	29%	--	1 937	+19

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **23%**

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	451	44%	3	448	-15
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	529	32%	24	505	-3
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	903	27%	100	803	-30

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 02-Mar-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	842	-42	Snowy-Murray	+21	605
Snowy-Murray Component	613	-61	Tooma-Tumut	+0	242
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	21.3	363
			Murray 1 Release	+24	831

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2009	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	4.0	158	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.0	108
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.4	51	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	8.6	192
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	20	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.6	100
Licensed Pumps	2.2	75	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	3.9	15
Lower Darling	0.2	7	Licensed pumps - LMW	6.2	209
TOTAL	9.5	311	TOTAL	22.3	624

* Figures derived from Estimates and Monthly Data. Please note that not all data may have been available at the time of creating this report.

** All Data is rounded to nearest 100 ML for the above**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186	(8 300 ML/day)
Flow this week	57.8	
Flow so far this month	25	
Flow last month	235	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	60	70	60
Euston	80	80	90
Red Cliffs	-	90	100
Merbein	100	100	100
Burtundy (Darling)	240	240	490
Lock 9	210	170	140
Lake Victoria	200	180	200
Berri	200	210	320
Waikerie	-	-	410
Morgan	280	270	510
Mannum	300	320	600
Murray Bridge	390	420	670
Milang (Lake Alex.)	6 510	6 580	5 610
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	5 610	5 660	5 100
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	16 240	15 770	11 430
Goolwa Barrages	16 130	15 420	13 550

Week ending Wednesday 03 Mar 2010

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height		Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
		local (m)	(m AHD)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	1 570	F	3 430	5 540
Jingellic	4.0	1.26	207.78	1 680	F	4 410	6 200
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.45	218.34	570	F	560	580
Heywoods	5.5	2.38	156.01	7 140	F	7 520	7 970
Doctors Point	5.5	2.38	150.85	7 810	S	8 270	8 620
Albury	4.3	1.37	148.81	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.84	127.86	7 480	F	7 950	8 200
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.03	116.07	5 450	F	5 920	6 110
Tocumwal	6.4	1.60	105.44	6 250	S	6 270	6 610
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.43	79.98	3 910	F	3 950	4 580
Swan Hill	4.5	0.88	63.80	3 890	R	4 010	4 630
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.18	51.30	4 970	F	5 420	6 190
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.18	43.02	5 210	S	5 780	6 120
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 930	F	5 070	4 810
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.90	28.66	15 000	R	14 610	13 030
Rufus Junction	-	3.56	20.49	7 120	F	7 270	7 180
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.20	-	4 710	R	4 550	4 510
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.78	154.01	300	F	390	340
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.84	145.52	510	S	480	430
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.25	92.67	570	R	550	560
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.94	80.72	680	F	770	1 100
Edward at Liewah	-	1.93	57.31	1 250	F	1 420	1 680
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.24	54.74	160	S	150	120
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.77	56.73	450	F	650	660
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.30	-	180	F	110	60
Darling at Bourke	-	4.66	-	4 800	R	4 020	2 310
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	5.72	-	12 270	R	11 770	10 080

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 960	2 640
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.02	+1.29
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.00	+0.16
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+0.30
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.11	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.96
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+1.26	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.41
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.10	+0.18	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.10	+0.36
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+1.69	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-0.95

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.95	0.567	69.917	220
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.19	0.205	61.505	319

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

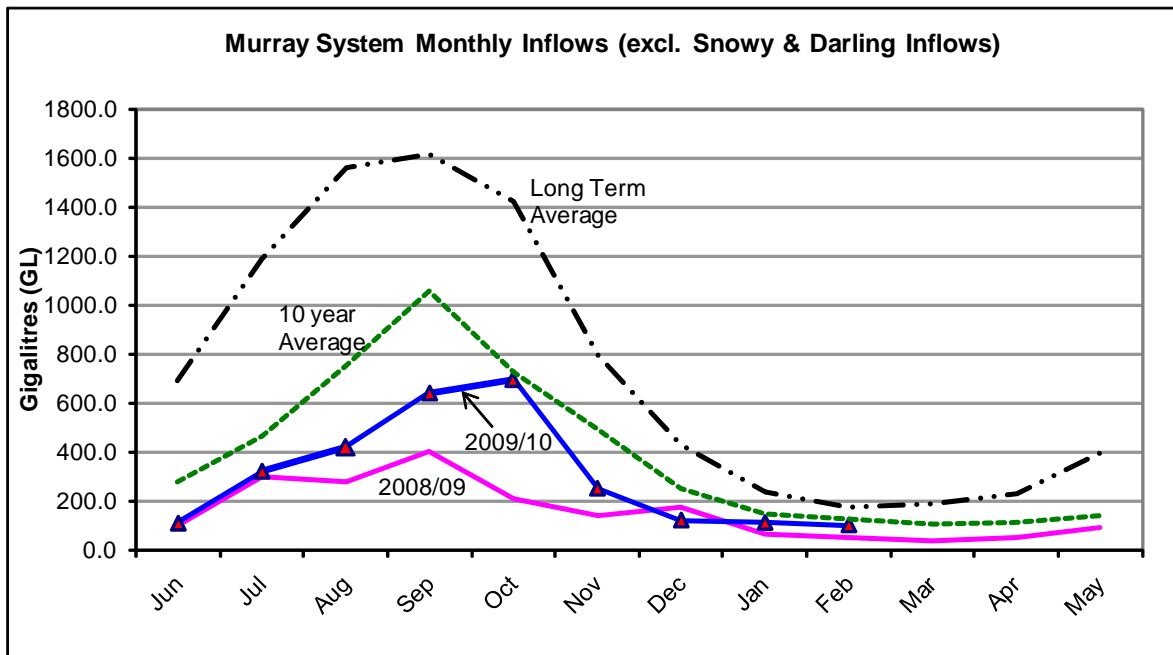
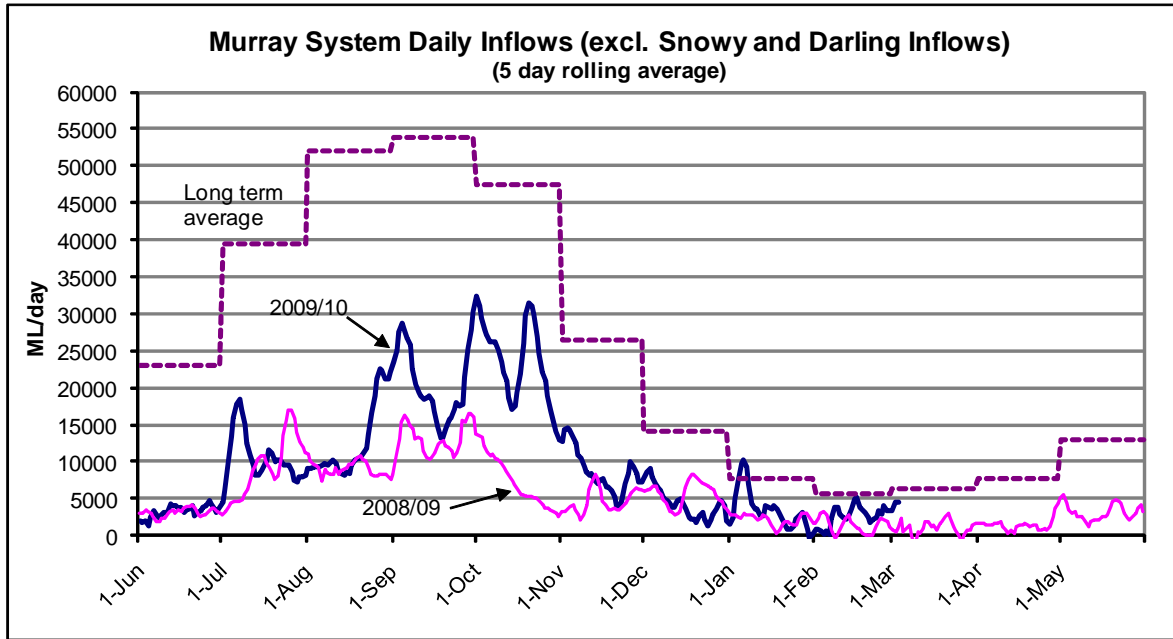
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.88

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.01	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

AHD = Level relative to Australian Height Datum, i.e. height above sea level



State Allocations (as at 3 March 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	20%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	66%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	24%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	60%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	55%
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NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/About-us/Media-releases/media/default.aspx>

VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>

SA : <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>